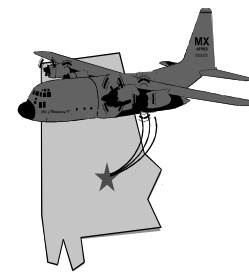


Southern Flyer



908th Airlift Wing, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala.

February 2002



Photo by Maj. Carol Anders

ROA honors chaplain

908th Airlift Wing Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Robert Ander, far right, accepts congratulations from presenters for being named Chaplain of the Year at the Reserve Officers Association 2002 Mid-Winter Conference held in Washing-

ton, D.C., Jan. 20-23. "Chaplain Bob," as he's known throughout the wing, received another honor during the convention -- he delivered the convocation during the luncheon held honoring President Bush.

Top wing post changes this UTA

Two major events highlight the February UTA. First; Col. James N. Stewart assumes command of the 908th Airlift Wing from Col. Thomas R. Brown during a ceremony Saturday Feb. 9. The change of command ceremony will be held at Squadron Officer College's Polifka Auditorium at 3 p.m. Second; Colonel Brown's retirement ceremony will be held Sunday at 10 a.m. at the Maxwell AFB Officers' Club

"The 908th AW has a long history of great commanders to include the two most recent -- Brig. Gen. Bill Kane and Col. Tom Brown. I'm honored to follow in their footsteps. Having worked with both, I know those are big shoes to fill," Stewart said, talking about his new job.

Colonel Stewart comes to 908th neither as a stranger to the area or the mission. He takes the reins of command here on the heels of commanding the 94th Operations Group at Dobbins ARB, Ga., where he commanded over 550 people who fly, load, and control eight C-130 aircraft.

Just as the mission is familiar so is the terrain. Stewart was commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at nearby Auburn University in June 1977. He attended Squadron

Officer School here in 1983. His strongest link to area is family: His wife, Kristi, hails from Montgomery. The Stewarts have two children.

Colonel Stewart spent 14 years on active duty prior to his departure in April 1992. After his departure from active duty service, Colonel Stewart started his Air Reserve Technician career with the 445th Airlift Group at Rickenbacker ANGB, Ohio, as the chief of C-141 current operations.

He served again as a current ops chief and operations support flight ops officer at Charleston AFB, S.C., and strategic airlift operations manager at Headquarters 22nd Air Force, Dobbins ARB.

He followed his tour at Dobbins with a stint as director of operations for the "Hurricane Hunters," 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Keesler AFB, Miss. Before returning to Dobbins as 94th Operations Group commander, Colonel Stewart attended the National War College at Fort Leslie McNair.

Stewart is a command pilot with more than 4,350 flight hours in C-141A/B, WC-130H, and C-130H2 aircraft.

Rodeo on hold until 2003

SCOTT AFB, Ill. — The war on terrorism and other missions have forced the postponement of an Air Mobility Command tradition.

Air Mobility Rodeo, the command's biennial international readiness competition, was canceled for this year due to current operations tempo. Rodeo 2003 is scheduled for June 21 to 28 at McChord AFB, Wash.

The competition showcases airdrops, air refueling, aeromedical evacuation, security forces, assault landings and related ground operations. More than 100 teams and 2,500 people compete from more than 300 active-duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve Command, Air National Guard, U.S. Army units and from various allied nations.

Specific information about rodeo 2003 can be found on the Rodeo Web site at <https://amc.scott.af.mil/do/dov/rodeo.htm>. (Courtesy of AMC News Service)

Satellite office opens

Reserve Recruiting Office has opened another office. The Huntsville Office, staffed by Master Sgt. Kelley James, officially opened Jan. 9. Five satellite offices now serve the 908th.

The locations, telephone numbers and recruiters staffing them are as follows:

- Montgomery office, 500 East Blvd., (334) 395-5456, **Master Sgt. Glen A. Barnes**;
- Birmingham office, 7001 Crestwood Blvd., (205) 591-8581, **Staff Sgt. William R. Rule**
- Dothan office, 2175 Denton Rd., (334) 671-2612, **Tech. Sgt. Robert Vazquez**;
- Huntsville office, 4710 University Dr., (256) 722-0558, **Master Sgt. Kelley James**
- Columbus, Ga., office, 3228 University Ave., (706) 562-9991, **Master Sgt. Angela R. Edwards**

In other Recruiting news, Master Sgt. Glenn Barnes was one of 41 command recruiters recognized for reaching the Century Club, each earning 100 or more points for accessions. Barnes and the other recruiters were recognized at an awards banquet ending a slate of annual training activities for recruiters held in Savannah, Ga., in December. Maxwell AFB along with twenty-two other locations received honors for Operating Location Recruiting Excellence.

Colonel Brown: 'It's hard to say good-bye'

Col. Thomas R. Brown
Commander, 908th Airlift Wing
Good-byes are tough.

It has been more than three and a half years since I took command of the best wing in the Air Force — the 908th Airlift Wing. It's been an absolute pleasure to work with and for all of you, because as your commander, I work for you, too.

I asked you to keep four priorities straight and you did that for me exceptionally.

Health: Quite a few of you have quit smoking since I arrived. We have had little to no alcohol related incidents. Thanks.

Family: At my previous wing, I got calls from spouses with problems on a fairly regular basis. Here I have had one. Either you did a great job or they can't find my number. I think you are doing a great job keeping your families informed and looking after their welfare. Thanks.

Civilian Employer: Likewise, I used to get calls from employers about demands we were placing on their reservists. Here I have had one and we resolved it over the phone in a

matter of minutes. Thanks again and keep up the good work.

The Reserve: Here you've been truly outstanding. I know about half of you arrived after me. The recruiting and personnel team we now have in place is the best I have seen in my 32 years in blue. Hopefully your experience with them was a good one. I can't say enough about Chief Master Sgt. Thrasher Jones and what he has done to build the "Newcomers Flight". Great job Chief and all your troops.

Remember what I said about staying **prepared, (proficient also)**. Now more than ever, you need to keep your personal records up to date and keep your family apprised of any new developments too. If you don't need to learn something new each UTA, you have missed a great opportunity. Seek that training and knowledge, it's out there.

And most important, take time to **have a little fun**. I think we have had a good time these past 3 ½ years. If you don't enjoy UTAs you will quit coming and I don't want that.

Carole and I would like to wish you all the best in life and your military careers. You have been like a family to us and we will never forget you. **War Eagle!**



Commander, 908th Airlift Wing
 Col. Thomas R. Brown

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For information about this schedule, call Jeff Melvin at (334) 953-7874.

New commander returns to 'Sweet Home Alabama'



Col. James N. Stewart,
Commander, 908th Airlift Wing

I am excited about the opportunity to come home to command one of 22nd Air Force's premier C-130 wings.

Don't look for many dramatic changes. My goal initially is to get to know all of you, assess where we are as a unit, and determine our wing's strengths and weaknesses. I want us to continue as the C-130 wing our AFRC command leadership counts on to tackle the many tough challenges

our country faces. Remember, our wing is just a small part of the huge Department of Defense structure, but we can and do make a difference each and every day in many different locations around the world."

I'm sure all of you are a bit curious about my priorities or specifically, what is important to me. First and foremost, you are my No. 1 priority. There's an ancient military dictum that holds true today, "Care and feeding of the troops is the commander's primary job." No task large or small can be accomplished without the support of your people. So commanders, I urge you to look after your people. Spend time working those OPRs and EPRs. Take the time to submit an award package on people giving you that little extra effort. The tools we commanders have available to reward our superior performers aren't limitless, so use the ones you have! When you feel like you are overwhelmed and don't have the time, remember the biblical passage, "to those who much is given, much is expected in return." Each commander has been given a tremendous amount of responsibility, I expect you to give 110 percent to your troops.

Mutual respect and politeness toward co-workers is another interest of mine. It's a Southern tradition. I'm not saying you have to like the person you're working with or for, but you should treat them with respect, regardless of race, creed, gender or national origin. The only way we will succeed as a wing is if all of us work together. Therefore, let's resolve any differences we have like adults and pull together to keep this

wing great. Remember, no one person/unit is greater than the sum of the whole. We are a team!

Some team members tend to get overlooked because there are so few of them, like the 20 'straight civilians,' who help keep us paid, trained and administratively organized. I appreciate these hardworking folks' efforts and will keep a close eye on their needs as well.

I'm also concerned about our relationship with our active duty brethren and the local community. I will strive to keep and improve upon relationships already established by Colonel Brown. It's important for us to maintain open communications with our hosts since we depend on them for so many things that affect our people. I ask that all of you remember that we are all part of the "Total Force", each needing each other in order to survive in this period of consolidation and maximization of our national military resources.

The last priority I'd like to mention is the importance of the reservist's family. I think the family is the most important contributor to your success as a reservist. If your family does not support/appreciate what you do on your UTA weekends, then it tends to affect duty performance. Mistakes made around aircraft, in the aerial port, and at the hospital can lead to drastic consequences for your fellow reservists. So, make sure that your family life is in order. Take the time to explain to your family why you have to spend those weekends away from them. It's not just an extra paycheck. Your job is important to the defense of this nation. Tell them why!

Let me close by saying how very proud I am to be working with fellow citizen soldiers. Each one of you is special because you take time away from your families and jobs to voluntarily serve your community, our great state, and your country. You do so with the same enthusiasm as that used to support your favorite state university. I applaud and commend each and every one of you for your dedicated service.

I am looking forward to my return to "Sweet Home Alabama". I pledge to each and every 908th member that I will strive to be fair, open minded, and flexible as we move forward together in this uncertain world. It is with great pride that I take the reins of command here at Maxwell.

Changes affect Reserve officer promotion policies

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche approved or released two new policies Dec. 19 that provide sweeping changes to the Air Force Reserve officer promotion system.

These policies will not impact the Air National Guard.

The first change reduces time-in-grade requirements for promotion to captain from five years to two years. The second policy establishes separate competitive categories for officers in the selected and nonselected Reserve.

"The (time-in-grade) change will result in a one-time increase of about 300 eligibles to the grade of captain," said Maj. Douglas A. Young, chief of the promotion and evaluation policy branch for the office of the Air Force Reserve. "There is a nominal programming cost to implement this change."

More than 12,000 officers have joined the Reserve in the ranks of captain or higher since 1996, Young said. Those officers had the opportunity of mandatory promotion to captain at four years time in grade or less. During the same time frame, only about 2,000 officers who had been commissioned into the Reserve as lieutenants were considered for promotion to captain.

"Without this change," Young said, "we were prohibiting our 'home-grown' lieutenants from promotion consideration until the four- to five-year mark, while officers in the active duty component were being considered with two years TIG."

"This is a fairness and equity issue — especially in light of the high (operations tempo) the Reserve (has) attained in the past few years," Young said. "This will permit our home-grown lieutenants to be considered in the same time frame as active-duty officers."

The new time-in-grade policy goes into effect immediately for all fiscal 2003 captain promotion boards for all competitive categories within the Air Force Reserve.

Beginning with the major's board in February, officers in the selected Reserve will compete against each other by competitive categories and those officers assigned to nonselected Reserve will compete against each other by competitive category.

The competitive categories include line officers, chaplains, judge advocates, biomedical science corps, medical service corps, nurse corps, medical corps and dental corps.

Separate promotion quotas for selected Reserve and nonselected Reserve officers will also be developed.

"Selected Reserve officers participate (in weekend and annual drills), are paid, accumulate points and receive evaluation reports," Young said. "Nonselected Reserve officers fall into two categories: those who participate for points and evaluation reports only, and those who earn membership points only."

When nonselected Reserve officers were promoted in the past, Young said, those promotions came at the expense of selected Reserve officers.

"Each quota spent on a nonparticipating nonselect Reserve officer leads to the potential loss of a twice-deferred participating selected Reserve officer," he said.

"Since our quota is based on the selected Reserve population, it should apply only to them," Young said. "Establishing a separate competitive category with its own quota would ensure those officers who have demonstrated potential to serve in a higher grade in the nonselected Reserve are afforded the opportunity for promotion without penalizing the selected Reserve."

Each competitive category would have a separate selected Reserve and nonselected Reserve opportunity for promotion, Young said.

The quota for all competitive categories will be reviewed and approved annually by the Secretary of the Air Force before the board convening date, based on the needs of the Air Force Reserve.

Local reaction has been positive.

The TIG policy change for 1st Lieutenant to Captain (2 years) is good news because it gives reservists parity with their active duty counterparts, said Maj. Troy Vonada, 908AW MPF commander.

"That's exactly what the Reserve Officer's Personnel Management Act (ROPMA) was intended to do, bring our promotion windows closer in line with that of active duty officers," Vonada added. (AFPN)

VA home loan ceiling raised; Guard, Reserve loan authority extended

WASHINGTON — An act recently passed by Congress and signed by President Bush increases the guaranty on Veterans Affairs home loans from \$50,750 to \$60,000.

The increase means eligible veterans can use their loan benefit to purchase a home costing as much as \$240,000 without a down payment. Many lenders will make VA no-down-payment loans for four times the maximum guaranty amount, said Judy Caden, deputy director of VA's Loan Guaranty Service. Before the president signed the Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act of 2001 on Dec. 27, 2001 the maximum guaranty was \$50,750, which allowed no-down-payment loans of up to \$203,000.

The new law also extends housing loans for National Guard and Reserve personnel from September 2007 to Sept. 30, 2009. Reserve component personnel are authorized the same home loan guarantees as active duty personnel

The act also increased assistance for specially adapted housing and changed the Native American veterans housing loan program, a VA's direct loan program that assists those vets buying on trust land. VA issues the loan, not a private lender, so the program differs from regular guaranteed home loans.

The act increases specialty housing grants from \$43,000 to \$48,000 for severely disabled veterans who need homes built to accommodate wheelchairs. The grant pays for such things as wider hallways, lowered kitchen appliances and counter tops, and bigger bathrooms. Veterans can use both a grant and a regular VA guaranteed loan to cover the total cost of their home purchase.

Another grant program for housing adaptations for less seriously disabled vets had its ceiling raised to \$9,250 — up from \$8,250.

For more info, go to the VA's loan guaranty homepage at <http://www.homeloans.va.gov/> (AFPS)

Employer's Day Nominations

The 908th Airlift Wing will host an Employers Day during Armed Forces Week May 13-20 (tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 17). This is a chance for your employer (both supervisor and president/chief executive officer) to see the wing mission firsthand as well as learn all about the Air Force Reserve.

Please nominate your boss today by filling out the form below and returning it to the Public Affairs office, bldg. 1056, room 210 or mail to: 908th AW/PA, 401 W. Maxwell Blvd., Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, AL. 36112, or FAX: (334) 953-2202. For more information, call the PA office at (334) 953-6804.

Employer's name/title:

Employer's phone number:

Company/organization:

Nominating Reservist name:

Company mailing address:

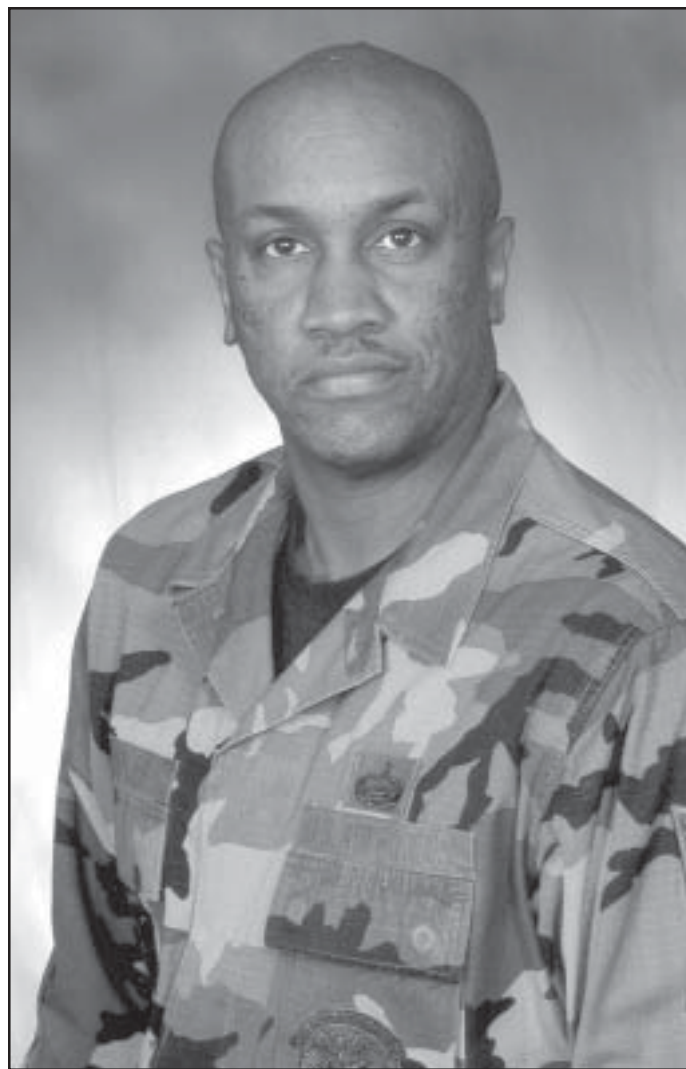
Your civilian job title:

Unit duty phone:



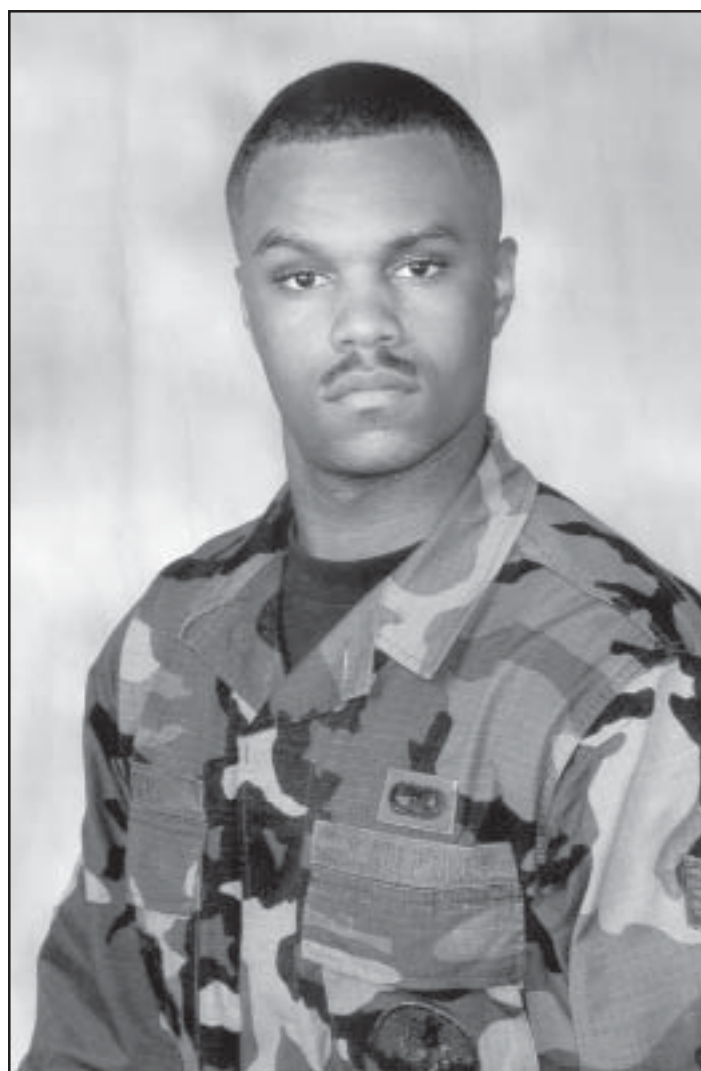
USAF Photo

Senior Master Sgt. Janet M. Beard, 908ASTS
2001 Senior NCO of the Year



USAF Photo

Tech. Sgt. Andrew C. Butler, 908MSS
2001 NCO of the Year



USAF Photo

Senior Airman Marcus D. Adams, 908LSS
2001 Airman of the Year



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Senior Master Sgt. Joyce N. Voyles, 908MXS
2001 First Sergeant of the Year

And the winners are

by Jeffery Melvin
 908th Airlift Wing public affairs

These stars don't sign autographs, get mobbed by adoring fans, punch out paparazzi or stare back at you from the pages of tabloid magazines. You won't see them at the Golden Globes or the Oscars but you can catch them appearing near you. Chances are one of them is standing or sitting right beside you. Their names aren't, Cruise, Roberts or Lopez, but they deserve the star treatment nevertheless. Take a bow, Beard, Butler, Adams and Voyles, 2001 "People's Choice" winners in the Best Senior NCO, NCO, Airman and First Sergeant categories.

OK, maybe that's a little over the top but (Then-) Senior Master Sgt. Janet M. Beard, Tech. Sgt. Andrew C. Butler, Senior Airman Marcus D. Adams and Senior Master Sgt. Joyce N. Voyles merit hand claps, back slaps and "attaboys" (or girl) for their selection as the 908th Airlift Wing's 2001 Senior NCO, NCO, Airman and First Sergeant of the Year, respectively. They won't sign autographs, but they will accept your congratulations.

Two thousand and two has been very good to Janet Beard, 908th Aeromedical Staging Squadron's new nursing service superintendent. Along with being selected the wing's top senior NCO, Beard pinned on chief master sergeant last month. A 908th member since 1990, she has a longstanding record of outstanding service, including deployment to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Desert Storm, previous recognition as the 1995 Air Force Medical Enlisted Health Services Management Award recipient, and a four-year stint as her unit's superintendent of aerospace medicine prior to assuming her new duties.

Beard "provided superior leadership and guidance to subordinates under her supervision and knows how to bring out the best qualities in an individual," wrote Col. Elizabeth Williams, 908th ASTS commander, in her nomination package.

Williams praised her leadership and job performance, self-improvement efforts and community involvement. Notable achievements

Wing selects top performers

include: development and implementation of color coded medical folders to enhance quality control of medical records; restructuring of the Aerospace medicine program to meet Health Services inspection requirements and management of the National Registry Emergency Medical Technician program that has improved certification compliance.

This year's top senior NCO community activities include active church involvement, Montgomery Newcomers Club as well as Air Force Sergeant's association membership.

"Epitomizes the highest standards of a well-rounded noncommissioned officer, leader and mentor," "A dominating force that consistently and effectively applies himself, promoting esprit de corps" and "Proven leader, with capability galore, he efficiently utilizes both skills and training on a daily basis" are but a few of the praises heaped on the wing's top NCO award winner, Tech. Sgt. Andrew Butler, by his nominator, Lt. Col. Susan Curran, 908th Mission Support Squadron Commander.

Butler, 908th Military Personnel Flight's NCOIC, personnel readiness, is the wing's deployment guru. He deployed more than 250 people on contingency exercise deployment orders in fiscal year 2001; all orders were accomplished in advance. Similarly, he led the way for the MPF's mobilizing of 50-plus 908th Security Forces Squadron members in support of Operation Eagle.

Well respected by host base active duty counterparts as well as command higher echelon functionaries Butler is a highly sought after trainer, exercise evaluator and functional area expert. He was by-name requested by higher headquarters to train a newly assigned personnel readiness manager at one of the command's bases. He was also chosen for a 15-day tour processing managing inbound Air Force Reserve Command personnel into the European theater based in large part on for his growing reputation for excellence.

Other achievements include: graduated CCAF in November with an associate's degree in human resource management; on target to complete requirement for a bachelor's degree in resources management this spring; completed a CPR medical training course and attended Contingency Wartime Planners Course. Married, and the father of two, Butler is heavily involved in choir and youth activities at his church.

Senior Airman Marcus Adams, a transportation management specialist assigned to the 908th Logistics Support Squadron, is this year's top airman. A few months short of his 21st birthday, this child of parents who both served in the armed forces is both wise and accomplished beyond his years. He "faces all new challenges head-on, with courage and conviction and a high sense of professional pride, is genuinely and warmly respected by all contemporaries for technical knowledge, leadership qualities, and dedication to duty, has boundless energy and great strength of character resulting in the highest standards of excellence and his contagious enthusiasm has

raised morale and fostered a total winning attitude throughout the squadron," said his commander, Maj. Steven Nine, describing his star performer.

Some of his many accomplishments, Nine said, include: saving \$65,000 by eliminating delays on personal goods shipments while working for the 42nd Transportation Flight; processing more than 1,700 outbound household goods shipments on time with zero discrepancies during last year's summer crunch of incoming and outgoing Air Command and Staff and Air war college student shipments; spearheading the quality control process during that summer crunch processing more than 1,000 claims valued in excess of \$150,000 with 100 percent accuracy; and receiving consistent laudatory remarks on his performance during periods of increased workload when he was frequently placed in charge of the 42nd Transportation Flight inbound personal property section.

Along with his work accomplishments Adams is working toward CCAF degree in logistics management as well as a bachelor's degree in graphic design. He's been on the Dean's List twice and received recognition for outstanding academic achievement. He also teaches Bible School and mentors young children.

Senior Master Sgt. Joyce Voyles was named First Sergeant of the Year for her work with the 908th Maintenance Squadron.

Senior Master Sergeant Voyles has "truly displayed the Air Force Core Value of Service Before Self. From her dedication in promoting the morale and welfare of all squadron members, to her diligence in enforcing discipline and standards, she has set the example for the entire wing. Her strength has empowered the members of the Logistics Group to strive for excellence. She is undoubtedly the best choice for First Sergeant of the Year. No one else comes close," wrote Logistics Group Commander Lt. Col. William Anholt, in his nominating letter.

First sergeant of the wing's largest squadron, Voyles looks out for the interests of nearly 200 people. She's built an atmosphere of trust and confidence not only among military personnel but among family members also. She's a visible and active participant in wing-wide activities such as family day, the annual Christmas drive, the honor guard, first sergeant and career advisor selection boards, and the Human Resources Development Council. She's also credited with revitalizing a wing Senior NCO induction ceremony program that had been dormant for almost a decade.

Her local community involvement is just as extensive. Her supervisor calls her a model "citizen airman." She's a member of and advisor to her area chamber of commerce, deputy county registrar and organizer of a letter writing campaign soliciting donations for a local community outreach program for families in need.

Coupled with her community activities, Voyles is active in her church and is pursuing an associate's degree through CCAF and a bachelor's degree in business management.



Tech. Sgt. Wendy Hendley

Photo by Maj. Jerry Lobb



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Senior Airman Tina Mathews

Two earn shots at commissioning

Two wing members have a chance to trade their stripes for gold bars thanks to the latest Deserving Airman Commissioning Board.

Tech. Sgt. Wendy Hendley and Senior Airman Tina Mathews, 908th Airlift Wing command post controllers, were selected for commissioning through the Deserving Airman Commissioning Program. The program places qualified enlisted members in vacant officer positions.

The pair must now attend the Academy of Military Science, the six-week Guard and Reserve version of the Air Force's Officer Training School. AMS sessions are conducted at McGhee Tyson ANBG near Knoxville, Tenn.

For information about the Deserving Airman Commissioning program, contact Tech. Sgt. Cynthia Smith, 908MSS Career Enhancement section at (334) 953-5584 or DSN 493-5584.

Bill includes \$3.1 billion for AFRC

WASHINGTON - The fiscal year 2002 Department of Defense Appropriations Act increases Air Force Reserve Command's annual operating budget and provides funds for more personnel.

President George W. Bush signed the act Jan. 10 granting AFRC an annual budget total of \$3.065 billion, a \$235 million increase compared to FY 2001. This year's spending bill allocates \$317 billion to DOD.

Under the reserve personnel appropriation, AFRC gets \$1.061 billion to cover pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, travel and other related expenses. This year's RPA funds an average pay hike of 6.9 percent for military personnel.

Another \$2.005 billion goes to AFRC operation and maintenance funding to train, organize and administer the command. O&M funds pay for flying hours, depot maintenance, repair of facilities and equipment, travel and transportation, civilian pay, recruiting, communication, as well as procurement of services, supplies and equipment.

Congress added \$6 million to the RPA account for school and special training. In O&M funding, it trimmed \$5 million from travel, \$6 million for unjustified program growth and \$14 million for business process reforms, but added \$1 million for C-17 site surveys.

This year under Guard and Reserve Equipment, AFRC also gets \$76.3 million - \$5 million for miscellaneous equipment and \$71.3 million for C-130J aircraft. The Reserve received \$4.9 million for miscellaneous equipment in 2001.

In addition to these programs included in the FY 2002 DOD Appropriation Act, Congress previously provided \$74.9 million to the Reserve for military construction projects in the FY 2002 Military Construction Appropriations Act, which was signed into law Nov. 5. (AFRC News Service)

Defense bill authorizes beefier pay hike

WASHINGTON - The largest military pay raise in 20 years along with new benefits for reservists are among the provisions of the fiscal year 2002 National Defense Authorization Act.

Signed into law Dec. 28 by President George W. Bush, the act authorizes across-the-board and targeted pay raises ranging from 5 to 10 percent with a minimum 6 percent pay hike for enlisted personnel and a minimum 5 percent for officers. Last year military personnel got an across the board raise of 3.7 percent in January with additional targeted raises in July.

The FY 2002 defense bill also approved personnel increases in three major categories in Air Force Reserve Command. Compared to last year, the authorized end-strength climbed from 74,300 to 74,700, the number of full-time reservists went from 1,336 to 1,437, and air reserve technicians jumped from 9,785 to 9,818. Compared to last year, this boosts the end strength by 342, AGRs by 101 and ARTs by 33.

Last year DOD and Office of Personnel Management agreed that the government should help federal employees pay for health care if they are called to active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation. As a result, this year's bill permits federal

agencies to pay the employee and government portions of Federal Employee Health Benefit Program premiums, so families of called-up reservists continue to receive affordable medical care.

Congress wanted to stimulate participation in funeral honors duty, so it extended to reservists the same rights, benefits and protections received for performing inactive-duty for training. Federal employees gained the option of using military leave to perform funeral duty as reservists, and retirees may serve as members of funeral honors details and receive payment.

Some benefits offered by defense bills are not immediate because DOD and Air Force must implement policies and programs before these benefits are delivered to service members. In some cases, Congress issues additional clarification in later defense bills.

Each year Congress renews one-year extensions of bonuses and special pay. This year's extensions through Dec. 31, 2002, include:

- Special pay for health care professionals who serve in the Selected Reserve in critically short wartime specialties;
- Selected Reserve affiliation, enlistment and reenlistment bonuses;
- Special pay for enlisted members of the Selected Reserve

assigned to certain high-priority units;

- Ready Reserve enlistment and reenlistment bonuses; and
- Prior-service enlistment bonus until Dec. 31, 2002.

New members of the Participating Individual Ready Reserve, which includes Air Force Academy liaison officers, will accrue two days' access to commissaries for each month's satisfactory participation in required training. Previously, these reservists had to complete a good year (a minimum of 50 points) toward retirement to qualify for commissary access.

Another perk allows federal employees of the executive branch, military members and their family members to retain for personal use promotional items received as a result of using travel or transportation services paid for by the executive branch.

Some proposed legislation benefiting reservists did not make it into this year's authorization act. For example, one provision included in the House bill but not adopted in conference by the House and Senate would have entitled qualified reserve aviators to be paid the same amount of Aviation Career Incentive Pay as active-duty aviators with the same number of years of aviation service. (AFRC News Service)

2002 Reserve Pay for Four Drills

		Years of Service														
		Under 2	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18	Over 20	Over 22	Over 24	Over 26
Pay Grade	O-7 2	795.52	849.56	849.56	855.76	887.72	912.04	940.16	968.24	996.36	1084.68	1159.32	1159.32	1159.32	1159.32	1165.16
	O-6 2	589.60	647.72	690.24	690.24	692.88	722.52	726.48	726.48	750.48	840.76	883.60	926.44	950.80	975.48	1023.36
	O-5 2	471.60	553.68	592.04	599.24	623.08	623.08	641.80	676.44	721.80	767.44	789.20	810.64	835.04	835.04	835.04
	O-4 2	403.16	490.92	523.68	531.00	561.40	586.12	626.16	657.36	679.00	700.76	708.08	708.08	708.08	708.08	708.08
	O-3 2	372.88	422.72	456.24	493.16	516.76	542.68	564.32	592.16	606.60	606.60	606.60	606.60	606.60	606.60	606.60
	O-2 2	322.16	366.92	422.60	436.84	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88
	O-1 2	279.68	291.08	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80
	O-3E 2,3				493.16	516.76	542.68	564.32	592.16	615.60	629.00	647.36	647.36	647.36	647.36	647.36
	O-2E 2,3				436.84	445.88	460.04	484.00	502.52	516.32	516.32	516.32	516.32	516.32	516.32	516.32
	O-1E 2,3				351.80	375.76	389.64	403.80	417.76	436.84	436.84	436.84	436.84	436.84	436.84	436.84
	E-9 1							456.52	466.84	479.92	495.28	510.72	525.88	546.44	566.84	595.60
	E-8 1						381.08	392.08	402.36	414.68	428.04	441.96	456.04	476.40	496.64	525.04
	E-7 1	264.92	289.20	300.20	311.00	322.32	341.72	352.68	363.52	374.40	385.68	396.68	407.64	426.72	439.04	470.24
	E-6 1	226.80	249.44	260.48	271.16	282.32	300.60	311.64	322.32	333.24	341.08	347.04	347.04	347.04	347.04	347.04
	E-5 1	208.20	222.04	232.76	243.80	255.04	270.68	281.36	292.44	292.44	292.44	292.44	292.44	292.44	292.44	292.44
	E-4 1	192.48	202.36	213.28	224.04	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64
	E-3 1	173.80	184.72	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80
	E-2 1	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24
	E-1>4 1	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40
	E-1<4 1	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36

New pay chart effective Jan. 1. Normally, reservists receive credit for four drill pay periods during one weekend unit training assembly.

Notes: See following explanations for the underlined numbers located to the right of the various pay grade designations in column one.

1. While serving as JCS/Vice JCS, CNO, CMC, Army/Air Force CS, basic pay is \$25,988.10 (see note 2).

2. Basic pay for an O-7 to O-10 is limited by Level III of the Executive Schedule, which is \$15,116.70. Basic pay for O-6 and below is limited by Level V of the Executive Schedule, which is \$10,133.40.

3. Applicable to O-1 to O-3 with at least 4 years and 1 day of active duty as a warrant officer and/or enlisted member.

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Chart Courtesy Defense Accounting and Finance Service

Training Schedule

February UTA Schedule

<u>Time</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location/OPR</u>
Friday, Feb. 8, 2002			
1500	1900	Commanders' Staff Meeting	Bldg. 1056/CC Conference Room/CC
Saturday, Feb. 9, 2002			
0700	TBD	Units At Range M-16 (Classroom)	Firing Range/SFS
0730	0800	Sign In	Orderly Room
0730	0800	Newcomers' Flight Reception	Bldg. 1056/Rm 101/DPMS
0800	0830	Newcomers' Intro/Orientation	Bldg. 1056/Rm 101/DPMS
0800	0900	Lab/DNA Testing	Bldg. 760/Lab
0830	0930	SNCO Induction Ceremony	Maxwell Community Center, Bldg. 834
0830	1200	NBC Defense Training (Refresher)	Bldg. 1062/Classroom/CEX
0820	1500	Physicals (Phase I & II)	Bldg. 760/1st Floor
0830	1030	Shots (IPPD/Flu only)	Bldg. 760/1st Floor
0830	0900	Pregnancy Profiles/Weight Waivers/ Fitness For Duty (Must Have DD FM 689)	Bldg. 711/Records Rm
0830	1200	Newcomers' MPF In-Processing	Bldg. 1056/Rm 101/DPMS
0830	1030	Anthrax Briefing (30-minute Brief)	Bldg. 760/1st Floor
0830	1130	M-41 Mask Fit	Bldg. 849
0900	1000	3A0X1 Training	Bldg. 848, 2nd Floor Classroom
0930	1000	TDY/PCS OutProcessing	Bldg. 1056/Rm 112, DPMSA
1000	1100	Unit Deployment Manager's Meeting	Bldg. 1056/Wing Conf Rm
1030	1130	First Sergeants' Meeting	Golf Course/Snack Bar
1100	TBD	Units At Range M-9 (Classroom Only, Firing Sun)	Firing Range/SFS
1100	TBD	Units At Range M-16 (Firing)	Firing Range/SFS
1200	1400	CDC Testing (Course 5 - SNCOA CD Rom Only)	Bldg. 1056/Rm 101
1300	1500	Joint Inspection (Cargo Prep)	Bldg. 846, APS Hangar
1330	1400	Fitness For Duty (Must Have DD FM 689)	Bldg. 711/Records Rm
1500	TBD	Change of Command Ceremony	Polifka Auditorium, Bldg. 1403 (SOC)
1700	TBD	Sign Out	Orderly Room

Sunday, Feb. 10, 2002			
0630	0700	Sign In	Orderly Room
0715	0815	PERSCO Training	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf Rm
0730	0800	Fitness For Duty (Must Have DD FM 689)	Bldg. 711/Records Room
0800	1130	Pallet Buildup Training	Bldg. 1055/CES Classroom
0800	TBD	Units At Range M-9 (Firing)	Firing Range/SFS
0815	0900	3S0X1 Training (all units)	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf Rm
0830	1130	Pallet Buildup Training (LSS Only)	Bldg. 1154/Base Supply
0830	1200	NBC Defense Training (Refresher)	Bldg. 1062/Classroom/CEX
0830	TBD	Units At Range M-16 (Classroom)	Firing Range/SFS
0900	1000	3A0X1 Training	Bldg. 848, 2nd Floor Classroom
0900	0930	Worship Service (Recommended)	Bldg. 846/Classroom 2/HC
1000	TBD	SORTS/Commander Meeting	Cmd Post/CAT Rm/CC
1000	1100	Career Advisors Meeting	Bldg. 846/DPMSC
1000	1100	Retirement Ceremony for Col. Brown	Officers' Club
1130	1200	Worship Service (Recommended)	Bldg. 1056/Rm 101/HC
1230	1530	CDC Testing	Bldg. 501/Rm 115/DPMT
1230	TBD	Units At Range M-16 (Firing)	Firing Range/SFS
1300	1400	Deployment Briefing	Bldg. 1154/Base Supply
1300	1400	Honor Guard Meeting	Bldg. 1056/ Cmd Chief's Office
1300	1400	UTA Bulletin Meeting	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf Rm
1400	1500	Chief's Group Meeting	Bldg. 1056/ Cmd Chief's Office
1600	TBD	Sign-Out	Orderly Rm

Support functions' schedule

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Dates & hours of operation</u>		<u>Location/Ext.</u>
MPF Customer Service	Sat, 1300-1700	Sun, 0900-1100	Bldg. 1056/35522
		Sun, 1200-1600	Bldg. 1056/35522
ID Cards	M-F, 0630-1630	Sun, 0800-1100	Bldg. 1056/35522
		Sat, 1300-1700	Bldg. 1056/35522
Reserve Pay	M-F, 0700-1100;	Sat, 0800-1600	Bldg. 1056/36722
		1200-1600	
Medical Records	Sat, 0800-1500	Sun, Closed	Bldg. 711/35714
Individual Equipment	Sat, 0800-1530		Bldg. 1154/36020
Clothing Sales	Sat, 0900-1500		Bldg. 851/37505
Restricted Area Badges	M-F, 0630-1600	Sun, 1200-1500	Bldg. 84/34283
Vehicle Registration	M-F, 0730-1600	Sun, 1200-1500	Bldg. 84/34283
Geneva Convention Cards	M-F, 0730-1600	Sun, 1200-1500	Bldg. 84/34283
Dining Hall	Sat, 0600-0930	Sun, 0600-0930	Bldg. 668/35127
		1100-1300	
		1600-1830	
Billeting office/reservations	(lodging problems, contact 908th rep via lodging front desk)		Bldg. 1573/32401
Photo lab	M-F, 0730-1630	Sun, 1300-1500	Bldg. 926/37981

FY 02 UTA Dates

March 2-3; April 6-7; May 4-5;
June 8-9; July 13-14; Aug. 10-11; Sep. 7-8

February UTA Lodging

To access the Lodging Reservation System, please follow these instructions:

- * Make reservations, cancellations or changes at least 24 hours prior to arrival.
- * Call Maxwell at 1-800-673-9356
- * Input your unit's authorization code
- * Dial the system at 3-8557 or 3-8558
- * The system will ask for your SSAN, which you will input with the telephone keypad
- * The system will ask for your personal ID number, followed by the # sign. (PIN available through your First Sergeant or Services 3-7332)
- * The system will ask if you would like to make, change, or cancel a reservation.
- * To make a reservation, input arrival date and then departure date.
- * You will be asked if the reservation is ADT, IDT, or both (ADT: Annual Tour, Mandays, Special Tour) (IDT: UTA, AFTP, RMP, Make-up UTA)
- * If this is a scheduled UTA weekend, the system will tell you where you will be staying
- * If you cancel or change a reservation, you will be prompted for a phone number.
- * The confirmation number you receive is for 908th Services use only.

Note: You can also call the system direct DSN or Commercial. The numbers are: DSN 493-8557/8558 or COMM: (334) 953-8557/8558.

If you have a question please contact Tech. Sgt. Byron Godwin at:

Commercial: (334) 953-7332
DSN: 493-7332
E-mail: byron.godwin@maxwell.af.mil
Emergency cell: (334) 301-3476

Notice! Checkout time at Maxwell Lodging for the February UTA is 0800 Sunday. If you do not have time to go to the front desk, and do not have a phone charge, there will be a key drop box located in Bldg. 157 (Main Lodging) for your convenience. Please do not use this box if you have any charges on your bill. In accordance with AFI 34-246 **smoking is not permitted in lodging rooms.** You may be charged a minimum of \$50 for cleaning for violating this AFI.

Airlift will be lodged at the Hampton Inn, Prattville.

Airlift Schedule

Aurora Airlift
UTA pick-up schedule Friday:
Depart Maxwell at 1530 local
Arrive Aurora at 1800 local
Depart Aurora at 1815 local
Arrive Maxwell at 2030 local

UTA return schedule Sunday:
Bus departs Bldg. 1056 at 1530
Depart Maxwell at 1600 local
Arrive Aurora at 1830 local
Depart Aurora at 1845 local
Arrive Maxwell at 2100 local

Huntsville/Dobbins Airlift
UTA pick-up schedule Friday:
Depart Maxwell at 1700 local
Arrive Dobbins at 1845 local
Depart Dobbins at 1915 local
Arrive Huntsville at 1845 local
Depart Huntsville at 1915 local
Arrive Maxwell at 1945 local

UTA return schedule Sunday:
Depart Maxwell at 1600 local
Arrive Dobbins at 1745 local
Depart Dobbins at 1815 local
Arrive Huntsville at 1745 local
Depart Huntsville at 1815 local
Arrive Maxwell at 1845 local

Take Note

Congratulations to the following people.

Promotions

- ... to Chief Master Sergeant
Janet M. Beard, ASTS
- ... Master Sergeant
Eren Y. Gray, ASTS
- Leonard R. Lay, LG**
- ... Technical Sergeant
Gregory T. Benjamin, 25APS
- Amy L. Brandenburg, OSF**
- George W. Carter Jr., SFS**
- Rickey L. Drinkwater, 25APS**
- Richard Grant Jr., CES**
- Anthony D. Green, 25APS**
- Steven P. Robinson, CP**
- Patrick L. Weir, AES**
- Bryan J. Williams, MXS**
- ... to Staff Sergeant
Richard D. Bell Jr., SFS
- Teresa D. Cruger, 357AS**
- Katrina T. George, 357AS**
- Samantha Jones, AES**
- Brady G. Newman, MXS**
- ... to Senior Airman
Corey D. Baker, LSS
- Arthur D. Caffey, AES**
- Majorie C. Driver, MXS**
- Rosalyn J. Hurst, ASTS**
- Dontrell D. McCray, SFS**
- Anthony Ranson, ASTS**
- Teqwenda S. Richey, LSS**
- Stephen H. Snider, 25APS**
- Joseph H. Stone Jr., MXS**
- ... to Airman First Class
Sylvia T. Bibb, MSS
- Daniel L. Seaver, CES**
- ... to Airman
Shermikia D. Hendrick, MSS
- Joseph L. Dixon, ASTS**

Travelers can keep perks

People who travel at government expense can now keep the perks they earn for personal use. A change to Section 1116 of the Fiscal 2002 National Defense Authorization Act allows travelers to keep benefits, Mary Henley, 908AW Financial Management budget analyst, said. The benefits include points or miles, upgrades, access to carrier clubs or facilities, or other promotional items. The policy applies to promotional items received before, on or after Dec. 31. The material must be obtained under the same terms as those offered to the general public and must be at no additional government cost.

One example is the voluntary relinquishing of a seat on an airliner. Under the policy change, a traveler may keep payments from a carrier for vacating a seat; however, no additional expenses, such as per diem, may be paid as a result of the traveler’s delay. “Travelers are still required to exercise the same care and regard for incurring expenses as a person traveling at personal expense. Remember, excess costs, circuitous routes, delays, or luxury accommodations that are unnecessary or unjustified are the traveler’s financial responsibility,” Henley said. When a traveler is involuntarily denied a seat, the traveler enters “awaiting transportation” travel status for per diem and miscellaneous expense reimbursement. In that case, any monetary compensation, including meal and lodging vouchers, belongs to the government.

SNCO inductees feted Sat.

An induction ceremony to honor wing members attaining the rank of master sergeant since Nov. 1 will be held Saturday, Feb. 9, at 8:30 a.m. in the Maxwell Community Center.

“Enhancement and professional development of our enlisted personnel is of great importance, said event coordinator Senior Master Sgt. Joyce Voyles, 908 MXS first sergeant. “We invite all of the newest senior noncommissioned officers, their family and guests, commanders, first sergeants, flight chiefs and supervisors to share in this special occasion. Commander and management support is essential for the success of this program. Please plan to attend, Voyles said.” An NCO Induction Ceremony to honor members attaining the rank of staff sergeant is tentatively set for March 3, she added.

SNCO Ceremony Inductees

Name	Unit	DOR
Gray, Eren Y.	ASTS	1 Jan 02
Lay, Leonard R.	LG	1 Jan 02
Bogan, Darrell B.	AES	1 Nov 01
Brettin, Robert J.	CES	1 Nov 01
Monday, Nicholas M.	LSS	1 Nov 01
Richards III, Sherrie B.	CES	1 Nov 01
Shields, Guy R.	25APS	1 Nov 01
Henson, Geoffrey B.	MXS	1 Oct 01
Rollins, Timothy W.	MXS	1 Oct 01
McWhorter, Albert G.	SFS	10 Sep 01
Muller, Steven G.	25APS	1 Sep 01
Payton, Dain E.	MXS	1 Sep 01
Ratcliff, G. Scott	357AS	1 Sep 01
Whited, Harold L.	25APS	1 Sep 01
Williams, Beverly B.	AES	1 Sep 01
Meehan, Geoffrey S.	MXS	1 Nov 00



(Air Force Image Express by Staff Sgt. P.J. Farlin)

One of our own

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (AFIE) — Tech. Sgt. Robert Wojcik, a reservist with the 908th Logistics Support Squadron, fuels an

F-15E Strike Eagle fighter aircraft at Moron Air Base, Spain, Jan. 4.

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